

By Senator Latvala

16-04522-12

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Senate Resolution

A resolution recognizing the Clearwater Marine Aquarium for its extraordinary efforts in rehabilitating the dolphin "Winter" and for bringing hope and encouragement to those around the world who have prosthetics.

WHEREAS, when a young dolphin was brought to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium with injuries sustained when she was caught in a crab trap, a chain of events was set into motion which brought worldwide attention to issues surrounding wildlife conservation and the development of prosthetic devices that allow individuals to resume active, whole lives, and

WHEREAS, the dolphin, named "Winter" by those at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium who worked to save her life, won the hearts of all who heard of her plight, which was made even more desperate when her injuries forced the amputation of her tail, and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium to rehabilitate Winter, which are the subject of the acclaimed 2011 Warner Brothers film "Dolphin Tale," stimulated the economy of the City of Clearwater, the Tampa Bay area, and this state, and

WHEREAS, Hanger Prosthetics and Orthotics, Inc., developed Winter's plastic tail and Winter's Gel, which is now used by thousands of people who have prosthetics, and

WHEREAS, Winter and her story have inspired countless individuals who have prosthetics, especially children and veterans returning from the wars in the Middle East, and

WHEREAS, the film "Dolphin Tale" provided a world stage for

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30 the mission of the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, which is
31 education, rescue, and rehabilitation, and

32 WHEREAS, the Board of Directors and staff of the Clearwater
33 Marine Aquarium, and all involved in Winter's rehabilitation,
34 are deserving of public recognition for their heroic efforts,
35 NOW, THEREFORE,

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37 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Florida:

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39 That the Florida Senate recognizes the Clearwater Marine
40 Aquarium for its extraordinary efforts in rehabilitating the
41 dolphin "Winter" and for bringing hope and encouragement to
42 those around the world who have prosthetics.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, with
44 the Seal of the Senate affixed, be presented to the Clearwater
45 Marine Aquarium as a tangible token of the sentiments of the
46 Florida Senate.